



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures

Cato R. Fiksdal
Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

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Arcadia, California 91006-5872
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Robert G. Atkins
Chief Deputy

August 12, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES APPROVAL OF THE HIGH RISK PEST EXCLUSION PROGRAM CONTRACT 03-0253 (3-VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Instruct the Chair to sign upon presentation California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) contract agreement 03-0253.
2. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures (ACWMD) to execute a contract agreement 03-0253 with CDFA to continue the Department's High Risk Pest Exclusion Program. The total amount payable to Los Angeles County, under this agreement, is \$1,529,696 for work performed between July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.
3. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to amend the contract agreement in an amount not to exceed 10% of the original contract.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will enable the ACWMD to continue the High Risk Pest Exclusion Program as mandated in Section 2282.5 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC).

During the 1996 legislative session, Senate Bill 2062 (Rogers) authorized a study group to review County Agricultural Commissioner programs. The group recommended that county exotic pest and disease exclusion programs increase inspections at high-risk shipping and sales facilities, such as postal centers, express carriers, air and sea ports, and produce markets. The group found that these inspections were underfunded and conducted below effective pest exclusion levels. Preventing pest introductions reduces

pest eradication efforts, including the need for pesticide applications, which have become increasingly frequent in recent years throughout the state. AB 2283 provided the initial funding during the 1998 legislative session. Sunset clauses required continued legislation to maintain the program. AB 1771 in the 2000 legislative session eliminated the sunset and incorporated the program into the FAC.

For fiscal year 2003-04, statewide funding for these activities amounts to \$5,500,000 from State general funds, with Los Angeles County's share being \$1,529,696. The funding specifically provides for inspections during package sorting at terminal inspection points such as Post Office, UPS, and Federal Express sites. It also provides for the inspection of trucks, sea containers, and air freight terminals where plant shipments are involved.

Los Angeles County benefits from enhanced pest exclusion funding in two ways: 1) the significant reduction of risk in the number of exotic fruit fly infestations and the potential for pesticide applications for eradications; and 2) redirection of general county funds to other important programs in our department, which were severely curtailed.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Awarding this contract meets the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence. Continuing the High Risk Pest Exclusion program significantly enhances pest exclusion ability and reduces the potential need for pesticide applications in the County. This program is a cornerstone of the Department's main mission.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no effect on the Department's net County cost. All costs associated with this program are 100% offset by funding from the State including all overhead and support staffing.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 2282.5 of the FAC provides annual funding for the high risk pest exclusion program. It also specifies and mandates that high hazard pest exclusion inspections be enhanced first, and monies may then be available to ten (10) other specified ACWMD programs. These programs are pest detection, pest eradication, pest management control, pest exclusion, seed inspection, nursery inspection, fruit and vegetable quality control, egg quality control, apiary inspection and crop statistics.

County Counsel has approved the State's contract agreement to form.

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IMPACT OF CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed recommendations will continue the Department's High Risk Pest Exclusion Program. Depending on the adequacy of funding, the ten (10) specified programs benefit from redirection of gas tax and county general funds from the Pest Exclusion Program.

CONCLUSION

When approved, please return to this Department the five (5) signed copies along with the minute order authorizing the Chair to sign. The Department will forward to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Contracts Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Cato R. Fiksdal
Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, County Counsel

CRF:RGA:PJD:mm